SHRI K. MOHANAN: I would request you to give me another chance in the form of a Half-an-Hour discussion for a substantial motion to discuss the details on this. It is very difficult for me to express the feelings of the coconut growers of Kerala through the Question Hour time. I humbly request you to give me another chance for a fulfledged discussion on this

MR. CHAIRMAN: You write a letter and I will consider it on merit. Now, Shri Makwana may complete his answer.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: For the benefit of the hon. Members I would repeat it.

Because of the market intervention by the Government, the prices which were prevailing at Rs. 1,050/- per quintal have now gone up to Rs. 1,055. That may be a less increase, but this increase is only due to the intervention by the Government and because of the purchase of a substantial quantity of copra from the market. The farmers have benefited by this. This scheme is for the farmers and growers and not for the traders. The hon. Member may be pleading the case of the merchants who have already purchased it at a lower price from the farmers. But we are not going to purchase it from the merchants. We are purchasing it from the growers through the local cooperative societies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Mr. Panicker. Half a second, no.

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Price of Coconut and Coconut Oil

*3 SHRI L. GANESAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the highest and lowest prices of coconut and coconut oil in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the number of representations received by Government regarding the fall in prices of coconut and coconut oil; and

(c) what action has been taken on each of these representations so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The lowest price per thousand oconuts was Rs. 1000, Rs. 1900 and Rs. 1050 during 1983, 1984 and 1985 in Rajamundri market. The highest price per thousand coconuts was Rs. 2750, Rs. 3200 and Rs. 3000 during 1983, 1984 and 1985 in Calcutta, Cochin and Calcutta markets respectively. The lowest price per quintal of coconut oil was Rs. 1475, Rs. 3000 and Rs. 1465 during 1983, 1984 in Kozikode and 1985 in Cochin market. The highest price of coconut oil per quintal was Rs 3300, Rs. 3931 and Rs. 3800 during 1983, 1984 and 1985 in Calcutta Bombay and Calcutta markets respectively.

(b) and (c) A total number of 23 representations/memoranda have been received on coconut prices. Since the main thrust of the representations was for a minimum support price for coconut, a scheme for market intervention for copra is being implemented in the State of Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

Purchase of milk processing plant Elaxter by D.M.S.

*4 SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Milk Scheme has recently purchased milk processing plant Elaxte from a company of Finland;